"Our local and state emergency management, law enforcement and transportation officials have worked tirelessly this winter responding to numerous storms, particularly in the mountains," Perdue said. "As North Carolinians, we can all be proud of these emergency response teams that work so hard to keep us safe."

The winter storms that began Dec. 18 blanketed much of the western part of the state with up to two feet of snow in a 48-hour period. The heavy snowfall stranded a number of motorists for hours. Ice and snow from the storm knocked down trees, damaged roads and bridges and caused widespread power outages for thousands. Heavy rains caused flooding and icing a week later, downing more trees and leading to additional power outages.

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